

1/6/72

Hon. Charles McC. Mathias
Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. Attn. Sid Harlburt

Dear Mac,

Despite his promise to you, Burke Marshall has done exactly the opposite. And despite your friendship with him, I tell you he has done this in the most disreputable way. With such friends as him, Teddy has no need for enemies.

Rather than seeing to it that there would be no access to that withheld evidence withholding of which could be made to make it appear that the Kennedy family was responsible for all the suppressions, he has seen to it that there would be access by a notorious sycophant. I have learned of this only today.

And what does this man of science want to see? The brace and the leg bandage JFK was wearing - for all the world as though it is evidence of the crime. From his writing of the past, which I have, it is clear that his purpose is to come out and say that the wearing of the brace and bandage prevented the President's body from falling forward from the impact of a shot from the rear.

(I have such braces and have had to wear them intermittently since 1939. It could not prevent forward motion of the body, and it did not. If it could, how could he have sat down? But all this is really irrelevant except to what the government is up to, impossible without Marshall's assent or on his initiative.)

Three pathologists have asked for access to this material. As of today, it had been granted none. The man who is supposed to have access within the next two weeks may not even be a pathologist. He bills himself and writes as a urologist. At least one member of the daily press has been offered access through a pathologist of his choosing. I am the first to have asked for access to this material, in 1966, was refused, asked again for same, went to court, and was there made promises the government has not kept. If anyone is entitled to such access, then as the first to make the request, I am, under the regulations, entitled to at least equal access, and I have a pathologist, duly qualified. I have renewed these requests of the Archivist and have appealed the rejection, as regulations require, to the Director of Information of GSA. I'll be surprised if I get a response before the evil is consummated.

The best we can expect is another whitewash, the worst the perpetual defamation of all Kennedys and the glorification of Hoover et al.

You had no way of knowing what would happen, but now I am sorry that Sid didn't talk to Teddy's AA for I doubt if anyone in his office has the faintest idea of the potential of all this. I have written them often, asking only that they inform themselves in confidence and with the assurance I would make no exploitation. I renewed this offer today and repeated my fears. I expect nothing to come of it, but I have done my part.

If in all this disgraceful conniving and corruption of the truth Teddy doesn't wind up getting killed it will be a wonder. This is an election year, and most people don't believe he is not a candidate. He'll be lucky to survive his unbrotherly record.

Sincerely, Harold Weisberg